

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #82B-19 Building Date: ca. 1901  
Building Name: Wiseman House  
Location: 17501 Watershed Drive, (Nottingham), Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Wiseman House is a modest two-family house, located near the east end of Watershed Drive at the Patuxent River in the village of Nottingham. It is built on ground which slopes eastward toward the river; it rests on a high stone foundation, infilled in many places with brick. This six-bay-by-one-bay building was constructed to house two families, and consists of two attached three-bay sections. Each section has central doorway and two flanking windows on both the north and south facades. On the north facade, each of the central doorways is approached by a high stoop; on the south facade, the central door of the west dwelling unit is covered by a three-bay porch, partially enclosed. The framing of the house is covered with white asbestos shingles; windows are 2/2 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds, painted green. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle; the eaves are overhanging, and cornices are plain and are not returned. There are two corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, one at the west end of each dwelling unit.

Significance

The Wiseman House is a simple two-family house which stands on the south side of the old road which led to the principal warehouses and pier. It was built circa 1901 by Elizabeth Caroline Wiseman to replace a dwelling destroyed by fire. The Wisemans were members of a black family of long standing in the historic town of Nottingham. In 1885, Caroline Wiseman purchased one of the oldest houses in the village, and lived there with her daughter, working for other families in the village as seamstress and laundress. In February of 1901, a fire destroyed the Wisemans' house, as well as the hotel and the Plater house which adjoined. Within a few years the Wisemans built the present house, placing it on the remnants of the old foundation. The new structure was a double dwelling, one of very few structures of this type surviving in Prince George's County. For many years, Mrs. Wiseman's house served as a weekend hostel for hunters and fishermen. It remains to this day in the Wiseman family. The house is an unusual example of early twentieth century vernacular dwelling, a noticeable landmark in a very historic setting.

Acreage: 1 acre

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wiseman House

and/or common (House indicated incorrectly on 1974 Survey as McCubbin House)

### 2. Location

street & number 17501 Watershed Drive    not for publicationclty, town Upper Marlboro Nottingham  
   vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Myrtle Wiseman

street &amp; number 17501 Watershed Drive telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD. 20772

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 518

street &amp; number Main Street folio 393

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD.

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974    federal    state ☒ county    local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #82B-19

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Wiseman House is a modest two-family house, located near the east end of Tanyard Road (once known as Market Street, but now called Watershed Drive) at the Patuxent River in the village of Nottingham. It is a built on ground which slopes eastward toward the river; it rests on a high stone foundation, infilled in many places with brick. This six-bay-by-one-bay building was constructed to house two families, and consists of two attached three-bay sections. Each section has central doorway and two flanking windows on both the north and south facades. On the north facade, each of the central doorways is approached by a high stoop; on the south facade, the central door of the west dwelling unit is covered by a three-bay porch, partially enclosed. The framing of the house is covered with white asbestos shingles; windows are 2/2 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds, painted green. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle; the eaves are overhanging, and cornices are plain and are not returned. There are two corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, one at the west end of each dwelling unit.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #82B-19

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates ca. 1903 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Wiseman House is a simple two-family house located near the water's edge in the village of Nottingham. It stands on the south side of the old road which led to the principal warehouses and pier. It was built circa 1901 by Elizabeth Caroline Wiseman to replace a dwelling destroyed by fire.

Nottingham was an important commercial center in eighteenth century Prince George's County. Established with Upper Marlboro and Queen Anne by the Act of 1706, it was designated a tobacco inspection station in 1747. By the late eighteenth century, Nottingham was a bustling town of stores, warehouses and inns. In August of 1814, it was the site of the encampment of British troops as they marched on Washington. By the late nineteenth century, with the Patuxent River gradually losing its prominence as an artery of transportation, Nottingham began to decline. In 1901, a disastrous fire destroyed many of the old buildings, including the house of Caroline Wiseman.<sup>1</sup> Today there is only one nineteenth century building among the small group of residences at the water's edge; the quite, idyllic community is only a faint reminder of the busy commercial center of two centuries ago.

The Wisemans were members of a black family of long standing in the Nottingham area. In 1885, Mary Jane Maccubbin, owner of the hotel in Nottingham, deeded to Elizabeth Caroline Wiseman "for \$1 and friendly feeling", a lot on the south side of the main street; it adjoined the Hotel Lot and ran from there to the Weems Streamboat Company Wharf, and was bounded on the south by the Plater house lot.<sup>2</sup> On this lot stood one of the oldest houses in the village, reported to have dated from the Revolutionary War period.<sup>3</sup> Caroline Wiseman and her daughter, Alice, made this their home, working for other families in the village as seamstress and laundress.<sup>4</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #82B-19

cf. Chain of Title  
cf. Notes, Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Tax Map 149, parcel 13

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, Section B

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl/Shirley Baltzorganization Historic Preservation Commission date August 1985street & number c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPC telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## #8. Continued

In February of 1901, a disastrous fire destroyed the Wisemans' house, as well as the hotel and the Plater house which adjoined.<sup>5</sup> Within a few years the Wisemans built the present house, placing it on the remnants of the old foundation.<sup>6</sup> The new structure was a double dwelling, intended to house two families, it is one of very few structures of this type surviving in Prince George's County (cf. the Balser House, #75A-11). For many years, Mrs. Wiseman's house served as a weekend hostel for hunters and fishermen. It remains to this day in the Wiseman family; Caroline Wiseman devised the house and lot to her daughter, Alice, who in turn deeded it to the sons of her brother, John Wiseman;<sup>7</sup> their family resides there today. The house is an unusual example of early twentieth century vernacular dwelling, a noticeable landmark in a very historic setting.

Notes:

1 Archives of Maryland XXVI, 636; Prince George's County Court Records #HH:348; Prince George's Enquirer, 15 Feb. 1901.

2 Prince George's County Land Records JWB #4:647; Prince George's County Census and tax assessments.

3 Unidentified newspaper clipping, 12 Feb 1901.

4 Prince George's County Census, 1900.

5 Prince George's Enquirer, 15 Feb 1901.

6 Prince George's County Tax Assessment, 1900-1910

7 Prince George's County Will WTD #2:416; Prince George's County Land Records #518:393.

Chain of Title

Wiseman House  
P.G. #82B-19

#518:393  
29 Dec 1938  
Deed

Alice Virginia Wiseman, unmarried, to Gary and Myrtle Wiseman and John Wiseman, as joint tenants; lot in Nottingham; deed of gift subject to a life estate in the grantor; same which grantor acquired by will recorded WTD #2:416.

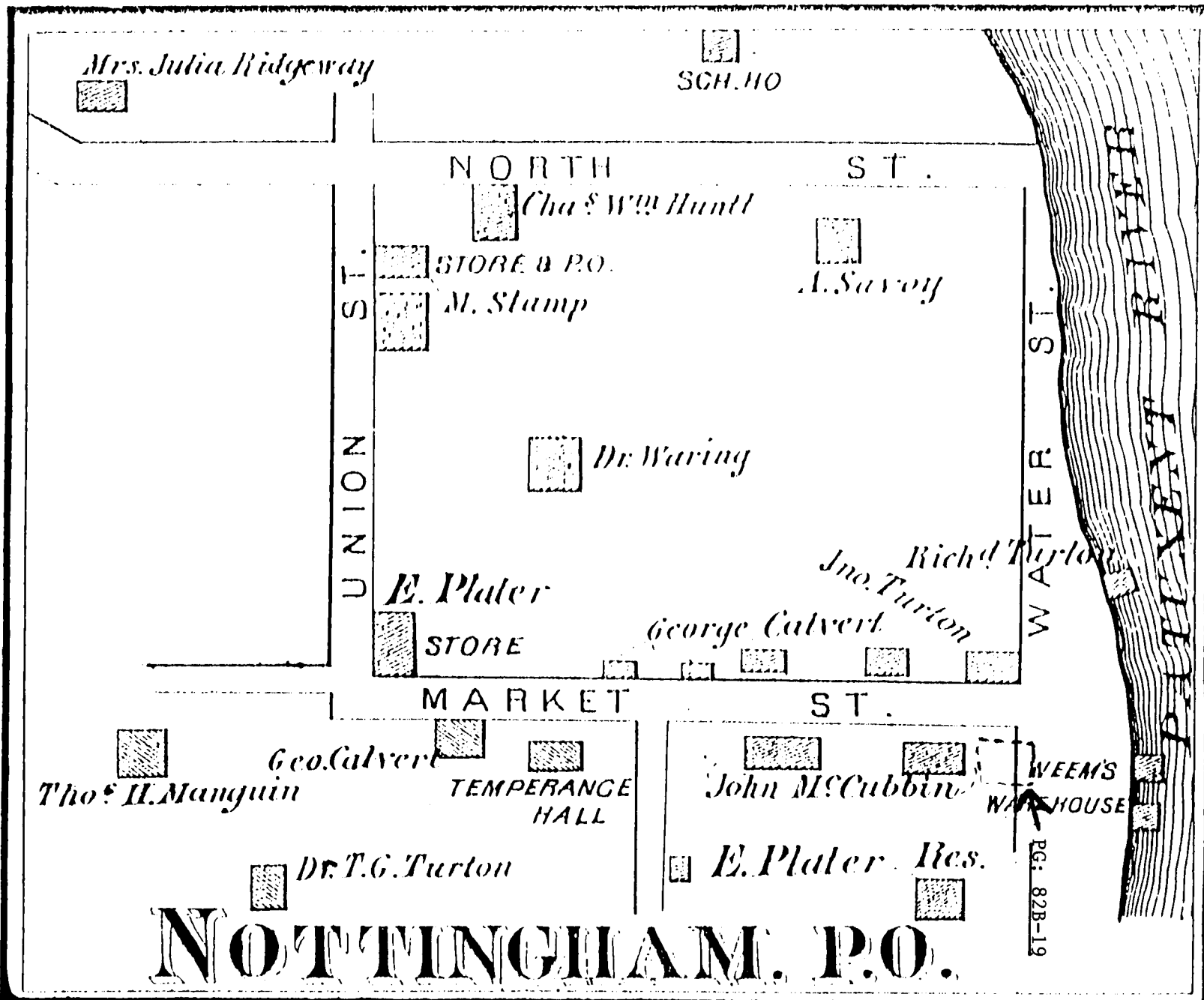
WTD #2:416  
24 Sep 1930  
Will

Elizabeth Caroline Wiseman devised her entire estate to her daughter, Alice Virginia Wiseman.

JWB #4:647  
30 May 1885  
Deed

Mary Jane Maccubbin to Elizabeth Caroline Wiseman, for \$1 and friendly feeling, lot in Nottingham running from the Hotel Lot 120 feet along Main Street to the Wharf.

Tanyosir Rd.



PG: 82B-19  
G.M. Hopkins Atlas, 1878

# NOTTINGHAM. P.O.

PG: 82B-19

M  
A  
Mrs. Eugene Inc.  
Jas. H. S.  
Store  
Miss A. B.  
Dr. Tho  
Parse  
Mrs. S. H. Coll  
Store & P.O.  
ST 2

NOTTINGHAM

BERNARD D. DOWNING  
4338/265  
139.74 A  
P. 7

TANYARD RD.

O-S

GORDON D. DOWNING  
4338/261  
163.94 A  
P. 59

M.149  
P.22 4.08 A  
P. 22

MAP 139 - P. 2

M.N.C.R.E.P.C.  
3336/270  
3.16 A.  
P. 2

NOTTINGHAM

82B-17

MAP 148 -  
P. 7

2 A P 7

P.8

.75 A  
P. 9

P 10

P.10 M.148 P.  
P.10 II

P 12

GORDON D.  
DOWNING  
4261/722  
4.73 A.  
P. 21

ELLIOTT B.  
ROBERTSON  
3976/5  
5.51 A.  
P. 15

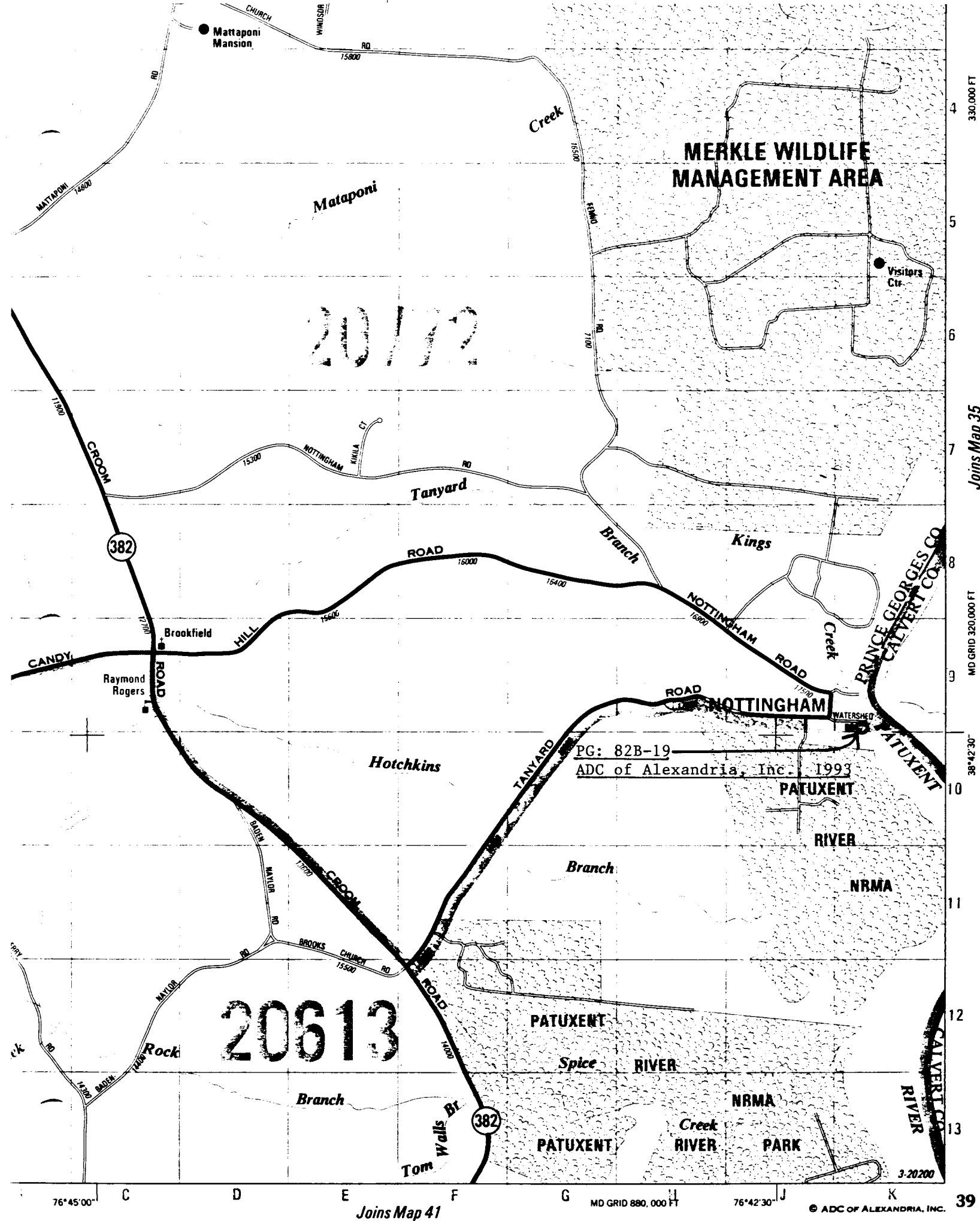
82B-19

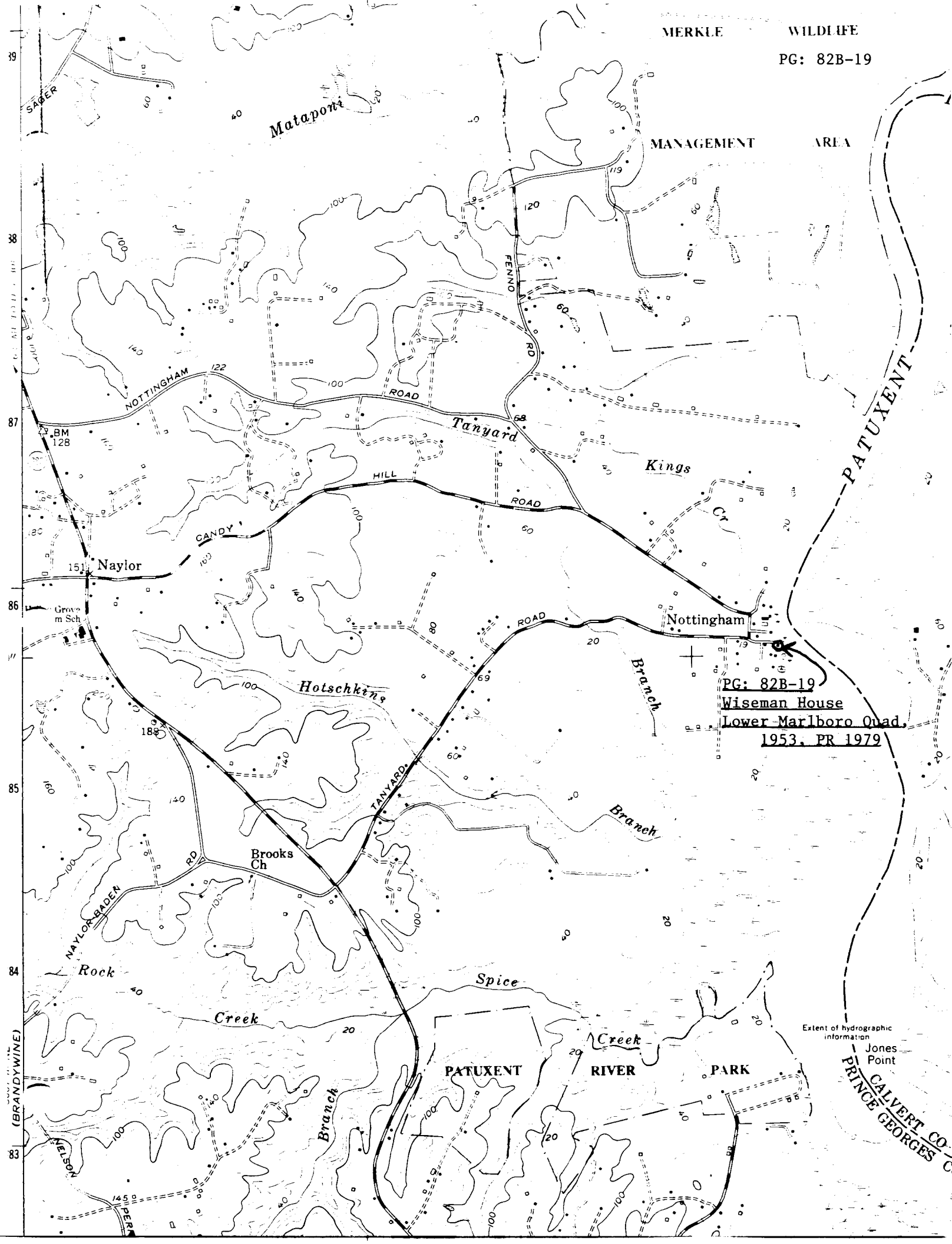
82B-20

MAP 148 - P. 59

O-S

GORDON D. DOWNING  
4338/261  
160.00 A  
P. 23





PG: 82B-19

Wiseman House

Lower Marlboro Quad.

1953, PR 1979

Extent of hydrographic information

Jones Point

CALVERT CO.  
PRINCE GEORGES CO.



NAME McCUBBIN House

# 82B-19

LOCATION NOTTINGHAM, MD.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 M. DWYER